

DRAFT MINUTES
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT TEAM
Wednesday, March 3, 2021

Present: Dawn Barnes, Kathy Logue, Jennifer Rand, Bruce Stone, Joan Chavez

Meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM – all participants participating remotely via Zoom

Jen led off the meeting by explaining that the Board of Selectmen were looking for confirmation from the FMT that we still thought \$300,000 was the correct amount for the override. She also mentioned that Skipper was arguing for \$285,000 as more likely to pass.

The following points were made:

- Jen: if everything goes just right and we use every last penny of Free Cash, we might be able to eke out setting the tax rate without the override but it leaves us with no cushion and makes the next year even harder.
- Bruce argued for the full \$300,000 because using \$285,000 may give a false impression that there is a particular purpose when there is not. He also noted that we are likely to bump up against the ceiling again sooner than we'd like.
- Jen replied that this meant doing it now was all the more important to smooth out for the future by doing it in smaller increments.
- Kathy noted that the only reason that we might be able to eke out without the override was because of the adjustments to health insurance for the Town and the schools. As soon as the one-month premium holiday is removed in the following year, then those budgets will go back up 8%, even if the premiums themselves do not increase at all.
- Jen noted that we will need a clear concise document in layman's terms for the Selectmen and Finance Committee before Town Meeting. In particular, we need to address the term Free Cash, which most people misunderstand and may think of us as creating a slush fund.
- Bruce said we do not have a level funded budget, and should not act as if we do by not raising the levy limit.

The FMT consensus was that \$300,000 was the right number.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Logue